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BAUMGARDNER

Virginia Banquet To be All-White As Negro Declines

RICHMOND, April 20 (AP). — Unless another "inadvertent invitation" is discovered or the principals thus far involved change their minds, Virginia's well-publicized dinner next month will be an all-white affair.

The affair appeared ended today after 10 days of controversy that followed the discovery that three persons invited to the State Chamber of Commerce's "Distinguished Virginians" dinner party are Negroes.

Dr. St. Clair Drake, a professor at Roosevelt University in Chicago, announced yesterday he would not attend.

He received an invitation to the dinner along with Dr. Cillian B. Powell, New York publisher, and Mrs. Ella P. Stewart of Toledo, Ohio. All three are native Virginians and Negroes.

When it came to light the dinner might become an integrated affair chamber officials withdrew the three invitations and extended apologies for any embarrassment or inconvenience caused. A "clerical error" was blamed for the invitations.

Mrs. Stewart readily acceded to the withdrawal. Dr. Powell and Dr. Drake, however, maintained they would honor the invitations and appear at the dinner unless the invitations were withdrawn personally by Gov. Thomas B. Stanley.

Dr. Powell reversed himself Wednesday night and said he would not be present.

Dr. Drake, however, said at that time he still planned to attend the May 17 dinner, scheduled as part of the Jamestown Festival honoring the 350th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in America. But he also withdrew yesterday.

File 62-101087-49

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Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
 Wash. News _____
 Wash. Star _____
 N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
 N. Y. Journal-American _____
 N. Y. Mirror _____
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Date APR 20 1957

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